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Top team wins diversity in action award

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ON TARGET

£78 million building programme completed

ON time and on budget, the completion of GMP's £78 million building programme was marked last month with the opening of a new divisional headquarters at Bolton.

Seventeen new police stations, including four divisional HQs, have been built in Greater Manchester in three years.

The improvement of facilities across the Force was carried out by John Laing plc in a Private Finance Initiative partnership with Greater Manchester Police Authority.

The Bolton building, which stands on part of what was Bolton Wanderers' football ground, was the last to be officially opened.

Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin said at the ceremony: "This is the largest and arguably the most impressive building.

"For the first time, we are able to have all facilities, including a modern custody suite, vehicle inspection garages, hi-tech forensic facilities and dog kennels, on one site."

Ch Supt Dave Lea, the Divisional Commander, said:

"The extra space provided by the new building has significantly improved working conditions and partnership working.

"This is particularly noticeable with the Crown Prosecution Service which, by sharing the building with us, provides easier access to lawyers and their teams.

"This helps speed decision making and the process of bringing offenders to justice."

Ch Supt Lea said the building was 'highly visible and accessible - just like our neighbourhood police teams.'

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Chain gang

Four mayors tried a different kind of chamber at the opening of the new Bolton Divisional HQ when they were taken on a tour of the building and ended up in the custody suite. From the left, they are Councillor Bernard McCartin (Horwich), Councillor George Penny (Westhoughton), Councillor Isabel Seddon (Blackrod) and Councillor Walter Hall (Bolton).

Picture by Chris Oldham.



Gary Etchells: "A caring man"

Stabbed PCSO goes home

GARY ETHELLES, the PCSO who was stabbed last month helping bailiffs with an eviction, recovered enough to spend Christmas at home with his family.

He had 37 stitches and staples in a neck wound after two emergency operations at Tameside General Hospital.

Gary, 47, was taken back to

his Derbyshire home 10 days after the incident.

He and his wife Andie have four sons aged nine, 19 and twins of 15.

Gary was stabbed on December 4 while assisting staff and bailiffs for New Charter Housing Association with an eviction in Elizabeth Avenue, Stalybridge.

A GMP statement said a police presence had been requested at the house where a man was to be evicted and that PCSO Etchells, who was

on duty in the neighbourhood, had arrived before police officers.

His wife said: "He became a PCSO in one of the first intakes three or four years ago.

"He had been running a theatre and decided to become a PCSO because he wanted to do something more worthwhile.

"He thought that if he didn't do it at this stage of his life, he never would. He is really good at his job and loves it."

Mrs Etchells described her

husband as 'a caring, generous and genuine man.'

Chief Constable Michael Todd said: "Once again, we have seen one of our police family seriously injured in the line of duty.

"Frontline staff never know what they will face when they go on duty every day.

"They often have to deal with issues, people and situations that can lead to them putting their lives on the line."

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THE new year presents us with even more new challenges and new opportunities. In each and every part of GMP, people will carry out excellent work focused on making life better for the people of Greater Manchester.

The work we do is so diverse, dealing with murder and serious and organised crime, anti social behaviour, the threat of terrorism, providing that essential emergency response 24/7, bringing offenders to justice, call taking, community problem solving, providing essential

support services to operational policing and so much more. Our people do a brilliant job.

They do it because they are dedicated to their profession and committed to upholding the reputation that the Force has for making a real difference to people's lives.

Often at awards ceremonies across the Force, when they are recognised for their professionalism, leadership and bravery, officers and staff will say to me 'I was just doing my job'.

To me, there is no 'just' about it. These are members of the Force who clearly recognise that the people out there count and that in dealing with the public and colleagues, we need to show leadership by being polite, courteous and professional.

It is equally important that the great work our people do is identified, highlighted to others and rewarded. I know that we don't always want to be in the limelight, but we do want to know that such work hasn't gone unnoticed.

The first Excellence Awards

ceremony in March will be a centrepiece of this recognition. More than 100 nominations have been made and local businesses have seen the work we do as so important that they have agreed to fund the event.

It is an opportunity to show some brilliant examples of what we do and I look forward to meeting all the finalists to say thanks personally.

Michael J. Teddl

PCSO recovers (from page 1)

Several letters praising the way PCSO Etchells went about his work in Stalybridge were sent to Tameside Divisional HQ some time before he was injured.

One, which was published in a recent Letters of Appreciation page in Brief, said:

As a retired couple, we had horrendous problems with gangs of youths, but we now have quality of life and peace of mind due to PCSO Gary Etchells, who has given 100 per cent to our cause.

Iris and Eric Sharp.

A second letter, which was due to have been published in this edition, was from a couple who had been told that Gary was to be moved to another part of the town:

PCSO Etchells has been an exceptional officer. He has made the Lakelands Estate safer and crime has gone down. No matter how busy he was, he has always found time to talk to us, which has made us feel safe. He is clearly an asset to the police and has made a marked improvement to our community.

Mr and Mrs F. Keyzer.

*A man aged 63 has been charged with the attempted murder of PCSO Etchells.

GMP MURDER APPEAL GOES ON INTERNET SITE

THE internet is being used by GMP to direct a murder appeal to a younger audience.

The appeal on the video-sharing website YouTube.com follows the early hours shooting of 15-year-old Jessie James in a Moss Side park in September.

A video clip featuring the boy's mother and sister had been watched nearly 20,000 times at a recent count.

"This is possibly the first time any UK police force has used the internet in this way to appeal for witnesses," said the Metropolitan Division's PR Officer, Tom Bassford.

"As young people move away from the more traditional media channels, it's important that we look at alternative ways to communicate our key messages."

Following a positive response to the first appeal video, an additional clip was produced in November, focusing on Jessie's funeral and his mother's eulogy.

GMP's Corporate and Media Imaging Unit produced each

one-minute video clip using unedited footage supplied by Granada TV.

Founded in February 2005, YouTube allows people to watch and share original videos across the internet.

Tom said: "Video-sharing websites like YouTube enable us to reach a younger audience and this type of approach can be expected to become more common in assisting police investigations."

Airing advice

ROCHDALE officers have joined forces with Crescent Community Radio, which serves the borough's Muslim community.

Regular appearances are being arranged for updates to be given on crime issues and what is being done to tackle the problems.

"It's a superb opportunity to get crime prevention advice across to the local community," said Crime Reduction Adviser Brian Farr.

Crescent's chairman, Faheem Chishti, said: "By having a regular police presence on our station over the coming months, we will ensure people get all the information they need."



Special constables at Wythenshawe Hospital: Junior doctor Sammy Syed and staff colleagues Joanne Rogers (left) and Amanda Higgins.

Sammy the special doctor

AT the hospital where he is training to be a doctor, Sammy Syed has a second job.

Sammy, 22, volunteered to be a GMP special constable because, he said, he wants to make Wythenshawe Hospital safer.

His main concern is the drunken abuse faced by staff and patients in accident and emergency.

Two staff members at the hospital, travel planning officer Amanda Higgins and personal assistant Joanne Rogers, have joined Sammy as specials patrolling the building and grounds.

All three, who have powers of arrest, started their extra jobs last month.

They have to put in at least four hours a week as uniformed specials.

In return, they get an extra day off a month with pay from the hospital.

Security manager Colin Potts, a former chief inspector in GMP, said: "We hope the presence of the specials will make potential troublemakers think twice."

Insp Kevin Marriott, of Northenden Area Policing Team, said: "This initiative will bring benefits to the hospital as well as to GMP."

OBITUARIES

Former Sgt **Christopher Davies**, 51, of Radcliffe, died on November 15, leaving a widow. He served with GMP from 1975 until 2003.

Former PC **Ann Heap**, 51, of Cheadle Hulme, died on November 24, leaving a widower, David. She served with GMP from 1974 to 1990.

Former Sgt **David Johnson**, 56, of Crewe, died on November 23, nine months after his retirement from GMP. He left a widow, Linda.

Former PC **George Thomas**, 78, of Wilmslow, died on November 25, leaving a widow, Doreen. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1954, moving to Manchester City Police in 1956 and retiring from GMP in 1984.

brief

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From the Brief files

20 years ago

Motorway and Tactical Aid Group officers worked a 36-hour shift battling in Arctic blizzards on the M62 to rescue trapped drivers and vehicles. Seven hundred vehicles and occupants were brought to safety.

10 years ago

It was announced that GMP would have 109 more frontline officers in the next 12 months, which would mean that in two years, operational strength had risen by more than 400.



MEMORIAL: Chief Constable Michael Todd with Det Con Oake's widow Lesley and son Chris.

Four years since detective's murder

Training suite is dedicated to the memory of DC Steve Oake

GENERATIONS of new police officers who enter a corridor at Sedgley Park Centre will see his name.

Last month, a new suite of training rooms was dedicated to the memory of Stephen Oake, the GMP detective murdered four years ago.

His widow Lesley and son Chris joined Chief Constable Michael Todd at the unveiling of a brass wall plaque to mark the official opening of the DC

Stephen Oake Investigative Interview Unit.

The title also appears above the entrance to the corridor of four classrooms and four interview rooms.

The specially-designed suite, equipped with DVD, audio facilities and plasma screens, is in an area that was previously a mixture of classrooms, storerooms and offices.

Upgrading and refurbishment followed the closure of the

regional training centre at Bruche, Warrington, and GMP now has some of the best training facilities in the country, said trainer Steve Retford.

Former colleagues of Det Con Oake joined Lesley and Chris as they sat in a classroom listening to former Det Sgt Retford addressing a group of student officers.

Then they watched on screen as one of the young trainees, PC Mike Dever, currently working

out of West Didsbury Area Training Base, conducted a witness interview in another room.

Sometimes, the trainees can watch interviews with genuine witnesses taking place.

The Stephen Oake suite has been officially deemed 'operationally compatible.'

That means witnesses in real cases can be interviewed there if they would rather not go to a police station.



OFF TARGET: A police constable who went to a domestic dispute in Auckland, New Zealand, accidentally shot himself and a 16-year-old boy with a stun gun before pepper-spraying an innocent woman. The wanted man decided to give himself up.

EARLY CALL: A mother in Columbia, South Carolina, called the police and asked them to detain her 12-year-old son for opening his Christmas presents too soon after she found him playing with his Nintendo Game Boy.

SCHOOL RUN-IN: Police who stopped a speeding school bus full of children in Canberra, Australia, found the driver was 13 times over the drink-drive limit. He asked officers if he could finish his school run.

IRREGULAR CUSTOMER: A robber held up his local bank branch with a steak knife just after withdrawing money from his account. The man, 47, got £59 in coins from a cashier who recognised him at the Woolwich in Bury St Edmunds. He also got four years.

BUZZING OFF: Thieves stole six beehives containing £900 worth of bees in Mettmann, Germany.

PANNED: Police seized a lavatory that flushes to the sound of the Italian national anthem at the Bolzano Museum of Modern Art. Prosecutors said the anthem was a national emblem that had to be protected.

WRONG TURN: Police in Bavaria said a 76-year-old driver caused nine crashes when she made a U-turn on a motorway. Damage came to £35,000 after cars ploughed into each other.

Thousands back petition for posthumous honour

MORE than 6,000 people have e-mailed their names to a petition calling for a reversal of the decision not to award a posthumous honour to Det Con Stephen Oake.

In November, a section was added to the 10 Downing Street website for petitions to be created on any Government-related issue.

The petition urging a reversal of the ruling in Det Con Oake's case was started by a GMP special constable, Dave Brettell, who is based at Urmston.

Dave, who has been a GMP special for 20 years, was assisted by fellow members of Police Oracle, a police-based internet website.

The petition is running for three months and is to close on February 15.

Chief Constable Michael Todd is supporting the campaign and has provided a link on the GMP Intranet.

Greater Manchester Police Federation has also put a link on its website.

GEORGE CROSS

The petition asks the Prime Minister to reverse the decision not to award Det Con Oake a George Cross and goes on:

"Many current and former members of the police service are considering returning their own medals in protest at the decision.

"This decision has come at a time when the UK is facing a challenge unseen since the

Second World War.

"It is also a time when more and more elements of the criminal fraternity are prepared to arm themselves, and we are seeing greater numbers of police officers being injured or killed as a consequence of this.

"This award will honour this brave and dedicated officer's memory.

"It will show his family that the ultimate sacrifice he made has not been forgotten by his colleagues and those he was sworn to protect.

SKILL

"It may also go some way towards improving the morale of a traditionally unarmed service that

continues to serve the public with skill, dedication and determination in such trying times."

In a message on the GMP Intranet, the Chief Constable said: "I feel that many of our people would wish to join with myself and the Deputy Chief Constable in supporting the petition which asks for reconsideration for an outstandingly brave officer who gave his life protecting his colleagues and the public."

Within hours of the Chief Constable's message going out, some 500 names had been added to the petition.

The petition can be located at: petitions.pm.gov.uk/DC-Stephen-Oake/

DRINK TOLL

IN seizing alcohol from underage drinkers on a Friday night in the Hollinwood area of Oldham, this is what officers collected in just one hour:

- 80 cans of beer
- 4 bottles of cherry wine
- 3 large bottles of spirits
- 2 plastic bottles of vodka and coke
- 4 large bottles of alcopop

"It was amazing that we got so much in such a short time," said PC Louise Sowinski.

Neighbourhood Policing takes shape

Q & A with the project team

What is Neighbourhood Policing and how will it differ from what we have now?

Neighbourhood Policing is the style by which we will deliver core policing to our communities. It still has a focus on key crime as well as providing a coordinated response to the quality of life issues which our communities face.

Why is it being introduced?

The delivery of Neighbourhood Policing is a national standard which has been detailed in the Neighbourhood Policing Doctrine produced by ACPO. Full implementation across GMP should be achieved by March this year.

Apart from the national requirements to deliver this style of policing, it just makes sense to work in a more joined up way, with the police, our partners and the community taking equal responsibility to address issues in their area.

**Neighbourhood
policing is arriving
a year early**

What sort of benefits will it bring?

Neighbourhood Policing should produce internal and external benefits. Internally, it should provide a clear structure by which divisions will respond and address the problems faced by their communities. Externally, it should make it easy for members of the public and our partners to contact their dedicated Neighbourhood Teams. This improvement in accessibility and links with the community will lead to better community intelligence, which will improve our ability to tackle offenders.

What difference will people see in the way their neighbourhoods are policed?

The first thing people should see is an increased number of PCSOs in their neighbourhoods. By March, GMP will have a PCSO establishment of 828 Officers.

People should also see clear corporate publicity detailing who their neighbourhood inspectors are and how they can contact them.

How will performance be measured?

Work is in progress on the Safer Neighbourhoods performance framework which should balance measuring crime and quality of life issues in every Neighbourhood.

Will Neighbourhood Teams have to deal with rapid response incidents?

In order to deliver clarity internally around roles and responsibilities, each division has produced clear job descriptions for both their Neighbourhood and response officers. However, a strong principle with Neighbourhood Policing is that the nearest and most appropriate resource attends to incidents as required.

Therefore, staff on a response unit will have *primary* responsibility for rapid response jobs. However, this is not *exclusively* their role and there is an expectation that support be given to 'slower time' Neighbourhood jobs when they are not engaged in an emergency incident.

The same is true with Neighbourhood staff. If they are the nearest resource, they should deal with an incident rather than wait for a response officer to arrive.

The Forcewide call signs project will develop this integrated way of working. Two Divisions, South Manchester and Wigan, are trialling call signs, starting this month.

Overall, the emphasis is on the most appropriate resource attending to incidents on their Neighbourhood rather than silos of staff with prescriptive remits operating alongside one another.



ANDY THE YEAR'S TOP INVESTIGATOR

THE outstanding achievements of Det Supt Andy Tattersall in homicide investigation have won him the national title of Senior Investigator of 2006.

The veteran detective was presented with the Homicide Working Group award from the Association of Chief Police Officers at the annual conference for Senior Investigating Officers (SIOs) in Bedfordshire.

Det Supt Tattersall has spent the past 28 years of his 32-year career with GMP in CID and has worked successfully on a string of high-profile cases, including the investigation into the killing of Det Con Stephen Oake in 2004.

JILL DANDO CASE

He was consulted in the Jill Dando murder case, and more recently he was seen in the BBC2 series, Anatomy of a Crime.

As a result of his work in GMP's Public Protection Section, the Force was the first in the country to introduce joint working with the Probation Service to monitor convicted sex offenders.

He said: "The approach to murder is all about teamwork and having the right people around you.

"As an SIO, you have to be the strongest link and know what to expect, drive from the front and be determined and gritty.

"We have some great detectives in GMP and have excellent relationships with crime scene investigators and Forensic Science Service – and without their help, I wouldn't have won this award."

ABC RULE

When it comes to an investigation, Det Supt Tattersall follows what he calls the ABC rule: Assume nothing. Believe no one. Check everything.

At the SIO conference, he launched the publication of a new homicide guidance manual, which he has contributed to based on his own experiences.

First TV ads help campaign



GMP's first-ever TV ads for a crime prevention campaign were broadcast last month.

The three 20-second ads were created for the Think Safe, Drink Safe campaign and ran for four weeks to the end of the year.

They gave advice about pacing drink intake, staying in the company of friends and making arrangements to get home safely.

The 'stars' of the ads were sheep, an

idea taken from the 'Think Safe, Drink Safe' campaign bubble.

They were seen falling off 'baa' stools, leaving a pub and dancing down the street.

The ads went out on the local Manchester station, Channel M.

Insp Steve Greenacre, of the City Centre Safe Team, said: "This was the first time we had done anything like this and I am awaiting the results with interest.

"It is important that we think of different ways of getting the messages out, especially when targeting a younger audience. This is particularly difficult when you are talking about drinking responsibly and staying safe.

"But these ads got the balance just right.

"They were not preaching, but managed to put the messages across in an appealing and humorous way."

Cold case killer to serve 28 years

THE killer of a widow in bus station toilets at Bury 12 years ago was jailed for life last month.

The conviction of Ian O'Callaghan, 38, was another success for GMP's Cold Case Review Unit.

O'Callaghan sexually assaulted and strangled Shirley Leach, 66, then returned to the scene to mutilate her body.

He cut his hand during the mutilation and bled on to the toilet door handle.

A cold case review in 2000 was able to retrieve a DNA profile.

After O'Callaghan was arrested last February for drink-driving, a routine DNA test found the match on the database.

Tests revealed a billion-to-one chance of the profile belonging to anyone but the murderer.

At Manchester Crown Court, Mr Justice Henriques told O'Callaghan, who had convictions for sex assaults, that he must serve at least 28 years.

Better technology

Det Insp Jeff Arnold, head of the Cold Case Review Unit, said: "This case is an example of how DNA technology has improved over the past decade.

"Even if O'Callaghan had been arrested on suspicion of another offence back in the 1990s, a DNA sample would not have been taken since it was not normal procedure to do this.

"Even if it had, it would not have generated an automatic match with the DNA found at the murder scene because it wasn't possible to search through a national database.

"Throughout interviews, O'Callaghan continually denied he was ever in the ladies' toilets at Bury bus station and always maintained that he could not remember where he was on the night of the murder.

"He could not account for how his saliva was found on Shirley's body or why his blood was found on the front of the toilet door.

GMP-style video watch will put Australian offenders in the frame

Trafford 'camera cops' idea taken up by officer who emigrated

THE tactic of videoing suspects and known offenders in public - pioneered by two Trafford officers - is being adopted in Australia by a former GMP inspector.

Dominic Wood, who moved to Perth last year, is to introduce a video intelligence unit based on the GMP model.

Before emigrating, Dominic knew of the video surveillance work that 'camera cops' PC Elaine Garrigan and PC Rick Hadfield had started, and he has kept up to date with developments via Brief on the Force website.

Dominic, whose last GMP posting was with the Tactical Support Section at Claytonbrook as Operational Policing Unit Manager, is now an assistant district officer (equivalent to a chief inspector) in the West Metro District of Mirrabooka.

Based on his experiences in GMP, he has formed an offender management unit.

PRIORITY

It is the first of its kind in Western Australia to target 'priority and prolific' offenders, especially burglars, who are the main problem in his district of six police stations.

"One of the tactics I will be introducing will be a video intelligence unit, which I have seen is a great success in GMP.

"As with the work Elaine and

Rick are doing, the idea is to overtly video the offenders, giving them the psychological insecurity that they are being watched and never know when they are going to be filmed.

"The footage can be downloaded at briefings to give patrol officers a greater



perspective of the offenders' descriptions, clothing, walking style and demeanour - the same as is happening now on Trafford Division.

"I am getting a lot of support for this style of intelligence-led policing to target the very small number of offenders who commit the most crime.

"It is a good example of why Western Australia considered recruiting at my rank to share policing ideas at a practical level.

"There are so many initiatives and developments happening in GMP, and it is a great opportunity for me to introduce some of those strategies here."

TOP: Former GMP officer Dominic Wood (centre) with Offender Management Unit colleagues at their police station in Australia. The photo appeared in their local newspaper in Mirrabooka, Perth.

RIGHT: Video surveillance officers PC Rick Hadfield and PC Elaine Garrigan outside Strangeways.

"It is shocking to think that someone can commit such a brutal murder and then get on with his life, as normal, for the next 12 years without his conscience ever kicking in.

Never closed

"Shirley's case was never closed and the Cold

Case Review Unit staff were actively re-investigating the murder at the time of O'Callaghan's arrest.

"Following further investigative work, we had compiled a revised and updated list of suspects.

"I think it is fair to say that even if he hadn't been arrested for the motoring offence in

February, his days of freedom were numbered."

Jonathan Whitaker, one of the scientists involved in the case, said: "There have been huge advances in DNA technology by the Forensic Science Service over the last decade.

"We have continually worked with GMP to apply all of these cutting-edge advances

in an effort to solve this case, and ultimately it was DNA profiling that led police to O'Callaghan.

"This is an exceptional case which illustrates the power of DNA profiling.

"The national DNA database in helping resolve some of the oldest unsolved cases, as well as current ones."



'Merchants of death' gun racket smashed by armed crime squad

Jail sentences total 43 years



GUN LAW: Det Insp John Lyons with German MEP Gisela Kallenbach at the Armed Crime Unit.

VISIT TO GMP BY GUN CONTROL MEP

DET Insp John Lyons and Det Ch Insp Paul Savill travelled to Brussels with local MEP, Arlene McCarthy, to discuss the problem of blank-firing weapons being imported into Britain.

Following their visit, German MEP Gisela

Kallenbach, who has been appointed to investigate the acquisition and control of guns for the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee, visited GMP's Armed Crime Unit to see for herself the extent of the problem.

THE Cuno Melcher factory in Solingen produced the blank-firing weapons lawfully under European legislation.

The guns could fire pellets of CS spray or flares and would normally have been used by mountaineers or people at sea to fire distress signals.

Staff at the factory said they had not thought it possible to convert them into live-firing weapons.

A European directive that would introduce more stringent laws for legally-held weapons in Europe is currently under discussion in the European Parliament.

By Rachel Smyth

ONE of the UK's biggest gun smuggling rings was smashed by GMP's Armed Crime Unit.

After a year-long investigation, four men branded 'merchants of death' by a judge are now serving a total of 43 years.

They imported 274 blank-firing guns from Germany and converted them to live-firing weapons at a workshop in Ancoats before selling them to criminals for up to £750.

Manchester Crown Court was told that guns sold by the men were linked to murders, other serious crimes and suicides.

The men hoped to make more than 200 weapons a week and even had plans to build a gun factory in Spain.

Robert Tyrer, 51, was jailed for 19 years, his brother Jamie, 36, for five years, Kenneth Lloyd, 55, for 13 years and David McCulloch, 52, for six years.

The men, all of Gorton, Manchester, pleaded guilty to firearms offences.

Judge Martin Steiger QC indicated that a fifth defendant, Thomas Ravenscroft, 62, would be given a suspended sentence as he is seriously ill.

OPERATION

Officers from the Armed Crime Unit launched Operation Carbon after a shop on Stockport Road, Levenshulme, received a parcel containing 14 guns by mistake.

The investigation was to become the largest of its kind in the North of England.

Inquiries with travel companies showed Robert Tyrer had been travelling to and from Germany for more than a year, sometimes with Ravenscroft.

In 2004, Ravenscroft was stopped by Port of Dover police who found 25 weapons in his suitcase. He pleaded guilty and was jailed for three years in May 2005.

Tyrer was determined that Ravenscroft's arrest would not stop the racket. Instead of using the ferry, he began sending guns by post.

Six were forwarded to GMP by West Midlands Police after a Royal Mail employee was convicted of stealing the guns and other items from a Coventry depot.

ALERT

GMP alerted Parcel Force employees to the distinctive yellow boxes in which the guns were sent.

Within two days, staff in Coventry intercepted 21 weapons

destined for addresses in Greater Manchester.

In an effort to make tracing them more difficult, Tyrer began sending the parcels to fictitious addresses so that they couldn't be delivered.

The parcel was then returned to the depot and posted to the person named in the 'return to sender' section.

In each case, the 'return to sender' section had addresses in the Gorton and Longsight areas.

DEAL

The conspirators had struck a deal with David McCulloch, a local engineer, who said he would convert the guns for £100 each.

McCulloch carried out the conversions at his workshop, DMC Engineering, on Pollard Street, Ancoats.

Officers went to Germany in 2005 to visit a retail outlet in Cologne and the Cuno Melcher factory in Solingen where the guns had been bought.

Staff at the factory gave a description of the man who had bought the weapons. Later, they travelled to Manchester for an identity parade where they positively identified Robert Tyrer.

His fingerprints were also found on the parcel delivered to the shop in Levenshulme and on receipts found at the retail outlet in Cologne.

The brothers were suspected of making several thousand rounds of ammunition to be fired from the converted guns.

RECOVERED

More than 40 guns imported by Tyrer have been recovered across Britain and the Republic of Ireland, some after being used in criminal activity, including several attempted murders.

To date, 23 people are serving 143 years in prison for offences involving incidents where one of the guns was used.

Det Insp John Lyons, who led the investigation, said: "Operation Carbon turned out to be lengthy and complex.

"It required a lot of hard work and dedication from a team of officers to build up a picture of exactly how Tyrer and the others were bringing the guns into the country.

"Tyrer was buying the weapons for about £80 in Germany and once converted by McCulloch and supplied with ammunition, they were being sold on for anything up to £750.

"The human cost of their actions is incalculable."

MOUNTING EVIDENCE

1,000 items a day are seized by GMP

Photo: Bill Morris



SURROUNDED BY EVIDENCE: Property Logistics Manager Steve Corcoran in the property store at Rochdale with divisional Property Officer Mark Ravenscroft and a fraction of the 400,000 items held across the Force.

ADVICE

A one-stop-shop to accessing advice about property management is published on the Force Intranet.

The Management of Property Directory can be found under *Force Information* (click on Property) or via the Links page on the *Solve It* intranet site.

The extensive index allows officers and relevant police staff to quickly gain the information they need when dealing with property.

It includes simple points to remember:

- Don't seize evidence unless it is necessary and you have the power to do it
- Retain property only if there are no other options
- Consider photographing property as opposed to retaining it – if a court does not need to hear, see, feel or smell the item, a photograph will suffice
- Dispose of property in accordance with the policy at the earliest opportunity and respond promptly to reminders to review the retention of property.
- Obtain disclaimers and apply for court orders, where appropriate, to speed up the disposal process (The Police Property Act 1897 allows the disposal of property if a disclaimer has been obtained or there is no known owner and it is inconvenient or expensive to keep).
- Evidence/property recovered in volume crime cases should be disposed of after 180 days if it remains undetected.

An intranet-based training package for the KiM Property Management System can be found on the Intranet.



“People go for the door when I walk in”

Pat Garside, Manager of the GMP Suggestion Scheme, writes:

To encourage suggestion contributions for improving the GMP property system, I've obtained a prize of two complimentary tickets for any film being shown at any Odeon cinema. The tickets will go to the author of any property-related suggestion whose name is pulled from the 'electronic hat' on January 30 at the end of the promotional month.

FORCEFUL IDEAS
YOUR SUGGESTION SCHEME
Ext62735/6

Some of the more unusual items retained in property stores across the Force

- The bottom half of a tailor's dummy
- A set of false teeth
- A pogostick
- A meat pie
- Conservatory roof complete with downspout
- A child's cot
- An aubergine used in an assault
- Rubber chicken (living in a property store for so long that it has now been adopted as the unofficial mascot)
- Cremation urn containing ashes
- Set of stills
- Punishment chamber complete with whips, chains and costumes

The most commonly stored items

- Clothing, including footwear
- Drugs, including drugs farms
- Pedal cycles
- Mobile phones
- Computer and electronic equipment
- Vehicles

AROUND 30,000 objects ranging from bicycles to firearms enter GMP's property stores each month.

Yet over the same period, only a third to a half of the objects already in the stores are cleared out and disposed of.

This is why the Force's property stores are bursting at the seams with an estimated 400,000 items stored in only 15 locations.

Property Logistics Manager Steve Corcoran says many of the items seized or recovered by officers are being retained unnecessarily and that guidance exists to show how to 'do property properly.'

He said: "Because we are receiving more month by month than we dispose of, the Force simply does not have the capacity to store the volumes of property we're being asked to retain."

RENTING SPACE

"If it continues to increase at its current level, we'll have to look at renting further storage space – which is already costing the Force tens of thousands of pounds a year – and this could take money away from frontline policing."

"The solution comes down to officers having the confidence to make a decision on whether to retain or dispose of evidence."

"Very often, evidence once stored becomes out of sight, out of mind. The advice to officers is to seize only what they really have to, to think about photographing the property rather than retaining it, and if they do decide to retain it, not to keep it any longer than necessary."

PAPERLESS

The KiM Property Management System was introduced in June 2005 to create a paperless system and enable all officers to manage their property.

Steve added: "I realise that talking property has got a reputation for clearing rooms in rapid time. I've seen people go for the door or pretend to drop a pen and duck under the desk when I walk in."

"But the use of the property management system is compulsory for any officer dealing with seized, lost or found property and is an integral part of their everyday working practices."

"Even using the system just once a month to see what property they hold and to make a decision on reducing it would improve the situation."

"In the near future, I'll be working closely with divisional commanders to use the system to identify which officers are holding the most items and for the longest period of time."

"This will enable us to help those officers reduce the amount of property and seized evidence and the time it takes them to deal with it."

"If we all 'do property properly,' it will ensure the pressure on Force storage space is kept to a minimum, property is handled professionally, and the integrity of evidence is maintained."



CLASS ACT: Standing back row from left, Salford officers Mark Emmett, Gary Waite and Stuart McGuire with instructor Billy Guffogg. Front from left, instructor Stewart Edwards and officers Martyn Johnson, Keith Galley, Jane Lindsay and Jason Clarke. Photo by PC Jerry Slater.

Salford gets its own fast entry team

£6,000 council funding pays for training and kit

THE wham ram has been overtaken in Salford.

The division now has its own team of officers to make rapid entries to buildings with a range of specialist equipment – manual, hydraulic and pneumatic.

“We are not trying to take over from the Tactical Aid Unit or copy what they do,” says the team leader, Sgt Stuart McGuire.

“But we are expected to enforce warrants at short notice and the TAU is not always available because of prior commitments.”

Stuart and six constables in Salford’s Operational Support Unit were trained at the TAU’s Claytonbrook base.

The trainers worked double shifts and their overtime was paid out of £6,000 funding from Salford Council’s Community Safety Unit.

This funding is also paying for the rapid entry equipment.

The training was arranged after Stuart had submitted a business case to GMP’s Learning and Development Strategy Group.

The cash was agreed after he sent a funding proposal to the Community Safety Unit, part of Salford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

“Our operational effectiveness has now increased,” he said.

“Gone are the days when drug dealers and users lived in houses with old, fragile wooden doors.

“These days, they are more likely to be reinforced or even made of metal. That’s why specialist kit and training was sought.”

117 nominated for excellence awards

THE number of nominations for Chief Constable Michael Todd’s first Excellence Awards had reached 117 when the list closed last month.

Nominations have been received from all areas of GMP for the accolades, which are to be presented at a sponsored evening event on Friday, March 2.

The most popular among the seven categories has proved to be the award for individual achievement, for which 34 nominations have been made.

Next most popular is the award for outstanding team performance, with 29 nominations.

There are 17 nominations for outstanding leadership and 12 for partnership working.

The awards for outstanding communications and communications officer of the year have each attracted seven nominations.

There are 11 nominations for the Chief Constable’s award for employee of the year.

20 things Motorway Unit officers do

(which you might not have been aware of)

A RECRUITMENT drive is being launched this month for the GMP Motorway Unit and Road Policing Units.

Retirements and job moves have led to vacancies at a time when the remit of the Motorway Unit (which includes Road Policing Units Nos 6 and 7) is being broadened.

At the same time, moves are under way to attract more female and minority ethnic officers so that the units can become more representative.

Meanwhile, to counter various misconceptions, Insp Phil Bromley and his Motorway Unit colleagues have drawn up this list of what they do.

- 1 Co-investigate fatal road traffic accidents with the CID and Major Incident Team where a suspect has failed to stop at the scene or there are large numbers of casualties or homicide is suspected.
- 2 Prepare complex and detailed files for coroners and Crown Courts.
- 3 Attend case conferences with coroners, CPS solicitors and barristers.
- 4 Thoroughly investigate all road traffic accidents, ensuring prosecutions for dangerous or careless driving are pursued when appropriate.
- 5 Work with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to intercept suspect vehicles.
- 6 Support the fight against terrorism with a range of road policing tactics, including the use of Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and checking goods vehicles, particularly those carrying hazardous substances.
- 7 Train with the Tactical Firearms Unit to practise tactics for stopping vehicles with people believed to be armed on board.
- 8 Provide staff to support royal and VIP escorts, category A prisoner escorts, together with high-profile events such as the Labour Party Conference.
- 9 Work closely with the Tactical Vehicle Crime Unit in managing pursuits that enter the motorway network and tracing Tracker activations.
- 10 Liaise with the Collision Reconstruction Unit to ensure the best possible evidence is achieved from collision scenes, which then assists officers in investigations.
- 11 Work with neighbouring forces on cross-border operations tackling travelling [Level 2] criminals.
- 12 Provide Road Policing Units and divisions with assistance on ANPR and crime operations, traffic accidents and other related incidents.
- 13 Patrol on divisions during the evening and night time, providing support to response officers.
- 14 Proactively use ANPR technology daily (ANPR and video systems are fitted in most motorway vehicles).
- 15 Work closely with the Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA), which includes patrolling with their staff to encourage information sharing and enable both services to work more effectively when dealing with prohibition, enforcement and intelligence matters in relation to goods vehicle issues.
- 16 Conduct joint operations with VOSA, HM Customs and Excise, Immigration and DSS to combat criminal use of vehicles. By having all these agencies to hand at a check site, powers range from seizing vehicles and assets and detecting illegal immigrants to detecting fraudulent benefit claimants.
- 17 Provide ambulance escorts to assist in the safe transport of seriously injured casualties.
- 18 Recognise infrastructure problems, work with the Highways Agency and contractors suggesting improvements.
- 19 Provide staff to act as liaison officers to families of victims involved in fatal road traffic accidents.
- 20 Trial new vehicles to evaluate suitability for patrol purposes.

* Attachments of a day, a week or longer can be arranged, and anyone interested should contact Ch Insp Ian Lomax or Insp Phil Bromley at Traffic Network Section, Eccles, by phone or e-mail.

The new buildings and when they opened

2003:	HARPURHEY	Deployment station.
2004:	URMSTON WYTHENSHAW ECCLES	Deployment station. Police station. Deployment station and Traffic Network HQ.
	HEYWOOD HORWICH ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SWINTON BAMFURLONG HYDE	Deployment station. Deployment station. Divisional HQ. Salford Divisional HQ. Deployment station. Police station.
2005:	PENDLETON CHEADLE HEATH WIGAN ATHERTON	Police station. Police station. Divisional HQ. Deployment station.
2006:	BOLTON CHADDERTON	Divisional HQ. Police station.



CURTAIN UP: Police Authority chairman Derek Osbaldestin and Ch Supt Dave Lea at the official opening of Bolton Divisional HQ.



PICTURED AT THE BOLTON OPENING: The Facilities Management team whose responsibilities include the care and maintenance of GMP's 17 new police buildings.

From left, Dan Rowlands, Julie Martin, Gordon Tilzey, Julie Worswick, Clare Holden, Bill Cawley, head of the team Peter Clough and Peter Bannister.



Sgt Steve Croft, of the Operational Communications Branch, reports on Force developments that affect everyone involved in delivering policing to Greater Manchester's communities.

GMP has recently updated its operational priorities.

The wheel diagram above sets out clearly who has lead responsibility for each operational priority within the Force.

Vital functions such as Command and Control, Contact Management, Public Service and Accessibility rely on joint working between Force level and local level police colleagues.

Organising work in this way will ensure that we both maximise the resources at our disposal and focus fully on the most important priorities for the Force.

These priorities, the responsibility for delivering them and the enabling processes and strategies that underpin them are being developed within a new Corporate Plan.

This will serve as the document for setting out our priorities and how we intend to deliver them and the Annual Policing Plan will continue to serve as the external document that informs others what we are striving to achieve.

The diagram demonstrates that performance in these areas is shared and emphasises the importance of working together when it comes to work such as Command and Control or Accessibility.

These shared areas of work are at the heart of a new Force level programme board chaired by ACO Lynne Potts that is set to improve the ways that the public makes contact with GMP and deliver real command and control of our resources.

The first stage in this process will be the introduction of call signs starting on Wigan and South Manchester Divisions and the Tactical Aid Unit.

GMP Operational Priorities



These are the operational priorities for GMP that underpin the Force Vision and will be achieved by working effectively with our partners.

TAKING



“Emphasis on real command and control”

- ACO Lynne Potts

What's your sign?

If you are a deployable resource using an Airwave radio, you need to know this.

The South Manchester Division, Wigan Division and the Tactical Aid Unit started work with OCR Communications Officers this month on the introduction of call signs to GMP. This will significantly change the way in which we speak to each other using Airwave radio equipment.

Being able to command and control policing resources is fundamental to responding efficiently and effectively to incidents.

Our current command and control system relies on individual PIN numbers to allocate incidents.

This means that radio operators, divisional supervisors and divisional commanders need to recognise each PIN in the list of deployable officers to make resourcing decisions. In practice this makes the task of identifying officers to deploy to incidents difficult.

Allocating call signs to key Force roles gives a simple means of identifying them.

What is a call sign?

A call sign is a group of letters and/or numbers that denotes a particular type of patrol. Call signs have been used in British Police forces for many years and are commonly used by the armed forces and civil aviation.

Many call signs have become embedded in popular culture for example Juliet Bravo, the call sign of the police officer that named the television series, Sierra Oscar of The Bill, or more obscurely Mike Sierra Foxtrot from the Flying Doctor!

Each call sign will consist of four elements:

- A letter denoting a division or branch
- A letter denoting a role
- A number denoting the location within the division (commonly a beat code)
- A number indicating the number of resources in the location

The scale of GMP's work is staggering. Members of the public contact us by telephone four million times each year, and these calls result in more than a million incidents requiring action.

The communications services provided for GMP by the Operational Communications Branch are fundamental to supporting front line officers in tackling the avalanche of requests for help and advice.

In August 2005, the OCB embarked on a wide-ranging project to develop the services provided to the public and to colleagues within the Force.

Supported by Greater Manchester Police Authority and under the guidance of Assistant Chief Officer Lynne Potts, work on 999 call handling performance slashed the average waiting time for a 999 call from 17 seconds to 7.8 seconds.

An investment of £1.6 million in call handling technology introduced a new Automatic Call Distribution system that is having a positive effect on non-emergency calls with reductions in abandoned calls and faster answering times.

Performance improvements by Customer Enquiry Officers at GMP's switchboard mean that more than 90 per cent of calls are answered in less than 30 seconds.

Analysis of call data means that frequent callers to the police can be identified.

Problem profiling helps OCB analysts provide valuable information for divisional officers dealing with repeat problems and in some cases prosecute people who abuse the system.

ACO Potts is pleased with progress on call handling, but is keen to emphasise that performance improvement in this part of the incident handling process must be balanced by improvements throughout the whole process.

"I'm really happy with our improvements on call handling and I am keen to continue that quality of service.

"Our emphasis now must be on making sure we've got real command and control of the incidents we have to deal with.

"Without command and control we can't be sure that we are making the best use of the Force's resources."

The process of achieving command and control is one strand of a major body of work started in October chaired by ACO Potts.

She said: "This work builds on the success of the earlier OCB project and is a realisation that the call resolution process, command and control, public contact in its broadest sense and resource management are all inextricably linked.

"Colleagues from virtually every area of work within GMP will contribute to this project to deliver massive service improvements."

ACO Potts has the full support of Chief Constable Michael Todd for initial actions to gain command and control of incidents.

"Mr Todd is determined that we have command and control. The first phase of the process is the introduction of call signs with the start of a pathfinder exercise in January," she said.

"OCB Communication Officers and

officers on Wigan Division, South Manchester Division and the Tactical Aid Unit will trial the use of call signs before the process is rolled out to the rest of the Force.

"This is an important step and will affect anyone who regularly uses an Airwave radio to provide a policing function."

The introduction of call signs will coincide with the re-establishment of radio discipline across the Force.

It is anticipated that Airwave Speak, a radio discipline pilot currently running in two Force areas, will be rolled out nationally this year. GMP's work on radio discipline will support the standards being set by that pilot.

Action on radio discipline will tackle excessive use of Airwave talk time, to ensure that operational officers have the talk time they need to do their job effectively.




For more information, click on the Call Signs button on the Operational Communications Branch home page or contact Ch. Insp. Chris Hill on extension 62288. He is the project lead for call signs

CONTROL

For example:



- C** ← Indicates 'C' South Manchester
- U** ← Indicates a unit beat mobile patrol
- 2** ← Indicates No. 2 divisional area
- 1** ← Indicates one of a number of mobile patrols in this area

Force resources, for example Tactical Aid Unit or Road Policing Unit, will have call signs made up in a similar manner using the existing Force area codes like this:



- X** ← Indicates an X Dept. patrol
- T** ← Indicates a Road Policing Unit patrol
- 5** ← Indicates Force Area 5
- 1** ← Indicates one of a number of mobile patrols in that area



A call sign worth remembering is

ZC01

The Chief Constable

"I think the introduction of call signs is great. It gives us the benefit of being able to identify patrols from what has been, up to now, a long list of PIN numbers. It also enables us to see exactly where patrols are allocated to on division. It will really improve our command and control." - OCR supervisor

"Call signs will mean that if I have to consider which resource is best to allocate to an incident, rather than looking at a massive list of anonymous numbers I'll be able to see instantly who is booked on and available. It will also be good when I need to see if there are specific types of patrol on duty, for example a robbery unit." - divisional inspector

"I'm looking forward to an improved degree of command and control so that members of the public see a better quality of service and I'm hoping that the introduction of call signs will support the introduction of neighbourhood policing." - divisional chief inspector

Some of the winning team members: front, from left Sgt Jane Butler, Community and Race Relations Officer Mazamil Bashir and Ch Insp Jim Liggett. Back, from left Insp Adrian Hopkins, Eileen Knibb (Community Safety, Manchester City Council), Monica Weir (Independent Advisory Group), Insp Kevin Marriott and Bernie Woodward, Willow Park Housing Trust.



INSET: South Manchester Commander Ch Supt Alan Cooper with Chris Coleman North West Regional Director for Virgin Trains, which sponsored the team's journey to the awards evening in London.

Police-led team wins diversity in action award

'Significant' fall in race-hate crimes

PEOPLE from an Indian community in Wythenshawe were being targeted in racist attacks.

But thanks to the work of a police-led team, the problems are now under control and the Malayalees from the south of India no longer live in fear.

Last month, the success of the team's multi-agency approach won Police Review's Diversity in Action Award for 2006.

"I am delighted their hard work has been recognised with this prestigious accolade," said Chief Constable Michael Todd.

The problems began six years ago when the first group of Malayalees were recruited by Wythenshawe Hospital to meet a skills shortage in medical staff.

With the creation of a new Area Policing Team in 2005 covering Wythenshawe and Northenden, contact was made with the hospital to improve community links.

ATTACKS

It was then found that a disproportionate level of crime was being committed against the Malayalee community.

One young girl had her hair set alight. Other families had their cars attacked and

fireworks, eggs and stones thrown at their homes.

A nurse was attacked as she left the hospital and others were verbally abused in the street.

Many assaults were not being reported to police. People at that time lacked the confidence to go through official channels, officers said.

So that problems could be discussed, open days were arranged at Wythenshawe Hospital and at a local church.

A Race Incident Steering Group was established, uniformed patrols increased and CCTV cameras installed.

Gradually, the Malayalee community accepted that the police and other agencies were there to help.

Offenders were arrested and charged – and offences have fallen significantly.

Paul Goggins, MP for Wythenshawe said: "With the area becoming more diverse, there has been a need for leadership and a sensitive response from local police – and this award underlines how successful the police have been."

Although a large number of officers and police staff worked to improve the area, GMP nominated 16 people as 'instrumental' to the success of the work, including hospital and housing officials.

Race and diversity monitoring report DRIVING FORWARD

GMP is continuing to make strides in its commitment to respecting race and diversity, the annual monitoring report says.

Each year, the report gives monitoring information on GMP's service delivery and employment practices.

Some of the main developments covered in the latest report include:

- The implementation of Stop and Account
- The establishment of a Confidence and Equalities Board under the leadership of the Deputy Chief Constable
- The Creation of local Diversity Action Groups (DAGs) and local Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs).

The report points to the development of the Force's Diversity Command in April 2005 and the creation of Diversity Champions, Diversity Action Groups and Diversity Action Plans in all divisions and departments.

There has also been an increase in minority ethnic staff in GMP, the report says – and more divisions are implementing initiatives to increase the reporting of hate crime and to encourage victims to come forward.

In its most recent report, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary emphasized the progress made by GMP and its strengths in its approach to equality and diversity.

ACC Rob Taylor (Criminal Justice and Diversity) said: "The monitoring report highlights a lot of good practice both on divisions and at a strategic level. But we also recognise there are issues that need to be tackled.

"We are always keen to explore the facts further and lead the way in ensuring that policing across Greater Manchester is done fairly and equitably.

"The Force has already achieved a great deal in terms of tackling race and diversity issues.

"By working with key members of the community, we will continue to improve how we deliver our services and deal with our staff."



UNDERSTANDING: Sgt Emma Taylor chats to youth and community worker Mahamud Osman at a multi-agency day at the Windrush Centre in Moss Side to help the local Somali community learn more about the UK justice system.

As well as GMP officers, there were representatives from the Crown Prosecution Service, Victim Support and Witness Service and Manchester's Witness Care Unit.

Mahamud said afterwards: "The relationship between the police and the

Somali community has improved a lot recently and events like this are helping to clear up any confusion."

Insp Ross Hickman, who chaired the event, said: "Feedback from the Somali community had shown a lack of knowledge and confidence in criminal justice. So we were pleased that so many people came along to gain a better understanding."

Presentations included a video showing how a crime is reported and investigated before a suspect can be dealt with.

OUT of 46 nominations for Police Review's Community Police Officer of the Year, PC Krys Urbaniak (Salford North) came third.

Krys was nominated by GMP for establishing the Swinton Car Club, which

steers teenagers away from car crime and into stock car racing and vehicle maintenance.

Krys's initiative is credited with helping to reduce car crime in his area by almost 25 per cent in the past two years.

Helping carers (unpaid) to strike a balance

IN November, more than 150 members of staff attended an event organised by GMP and supported by the Force's Women's Issues Network aimed at working carers. They gathered at New Century House in Manchester to find out about the support and services available to help balance work with caring responsibilities.

Amanda Venables, Carers' Co-ordinator, reports how the day went.

GMP recognises there are many working carers in the Force and that getting support at work can make all the difference.

Carers look after family, partners or friends in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. And the care they provide is unpaid.

There are more than six million carers in the UK and more than half juggle care with paid work. This means one in seven people in any workforce may be a carer, dealing with what might seem like two jobs – one paid, one unpaid – and meeting the needs of both.

Our event aimed to provide carers with information about the range of services and support available.

It was compered by Ch Supt Lil King, who shared her own personal experiences of caring, and included presentations by me as Carers' Co-ordinator to inform staff of a recent carers' survey and recommendations. HR Services provided information on the work-life balance options available to staff and Salford Council discussed the support available from Social Services.

Carers UK raised the profile of working carers and highlighted the benefits of supporting carers in the workplace.

The presentations ended with a 'Laughter Yoga' session, a wonderful exercise for stress management and general well-being, proving that laughter really is the best medicine.

In addition, staff had an opportunity to visit a wide range of information stands.

More than 25 caring organisations such as the Stroke Association and the Department for Work and Pensions attended, providing valuable information and advice to staff.

Feedback from the event confirmed that staff really benefited from the day and gained valuable useful information.

Three million people in the UK juggle caring with a job



HOSTING: Ch Supt Lil King.

SURVEY AND RESULTS

A SIGNIFICANT number of staff are struggling to balance work with caring responsibilities and I undertook a survey to identify their needs. In total, 355 members of staff completed a questionnaire, which represents almost three per cent of the workforce.

Findings indicated:

- Caring is unpredictable and can happen to anyone overnight.
- The number of carers in the UK is set to grow from six

million to nine million in the next 30 years.

- For someone aged 24 now, the chances of becoming a carer will have trebled by the time they are 59 and will most likely occur in their 40s and 50s when many staff will have gained valuable skills and experience.
- Caring can have a significant impact on the carer's own health and wellbeing.
- Staff are unaware of the work-life balance options available to assist with caring responsibilities.
- Staff are unaware of the support and information from professional organisations.
- Flexible, supportive and understanding managers can make all the difference.

* I am to develop and implement a number of initiatives to enable staff to balance their caring and work responsibilities.

These are to include a carers' event, Intranet site, a newsletter, a carers' guide, roadshows, a register and a contact list of others in the Force to share experience and knowledge.

Why it pays to link up early with the CPS

EARLY consultation between police and the Crown Prosecution Service pays off, according to two recent examples in GMP.

At Stockport and on North Manchester Division, officers have spoken of the benefits of consulting the lawyers sooner rather than later.

It couldn't have happened any sooner at Stockport. The CPS was involved in Operation Wexford before people were actually arrested.

The operation targeted suspects for crimes such as burglary, robbery and carjacking.

On three 'strike' days, 29 were arrested, of whom 25 were charged.

Throughout the operation, there were regular meetings and reviews with the CPS. Two lawyers based at the divisional headquarters gave advice and guidance as the arrests were being made.

CONSULT

Operation Wexford was run by Ch Insp Stuart Barton, with Det Insp Tony Creely heading liaison with the CPS.

Ch Insp Barton said there was no doubt that the decision to consult at the outset because of the scale of the operation had paid dividends.

Proposed seizures under the Proceeds of Crime Act also featured in the CPS discussions, he said.

CASE No 2 involved a large-scale disturbance in Manchester city centre.

Eighteen people were arrested. After consultation with Senior Crown Prosecutor Fran Gough, 11 were charged with violent disorder. All pleaded guilty.

Greater Manchester Chief Crown Prosecutor John Holt said he believed they did so largely as a result of the close working between the CPS and Collyhurst officers.

SAVING TIME

It had saved a lot of police and court time, he said, and was a good example of what was meant by the 'Prosecution Team,' as the relationship between the police and the CPS is now known.

Given the number of people involved and the scale of the investigation, PC Jackie Shove and PC Joanne Broadhurst, of Collyhurst Tutor Unit, spoke to the CPS as soon as they could.

ACC Criminal Justice and Diversity Rob Taylor said the outcome was a textbook example of how the police and CPS can work alongside each other to ensure a successful prosecution.



EXERCISE: A 'Laughter Yoga' session was one of the highlights at the GMP-organised carers' event.

Letters of Appreciation

A selection of letters of thanks and appreciation received recently at police stations in Greater Manchester

THESE OFFICERS RESTORED MY FAITH IN THE POLICE

FOR 10 days, I found myself in Rochdale Police Station almost every day, mainly because I turned in my son for an array of criminal offences, but also because I was charged with common assault.

PC Richard Marvell interviewed me at work and at the station and could see I was horrified at the thought of a criminal record for what was nothing more than an argument with an employee.

PC Marvell let me know in no uncertain terms that what I'd done and admitted to wasn't acceptable behaviour and cautioned me.

He realised I was under massive stress at work and in my private life and treated me accordingly.

He gave me back my confidence in the police.

Secondly, having spent three hours in reception to see an officer, I experienced first-hand what you have to deal with daily and what is actually walking our streets.

I was appalled. How any officer controls their temper with some of these people is beyond belief.

PC Debbie Jameson interviewed me in the early hours and her patience and understanding was amazing.

My son is destroying both my ex-wife's life and mine with stealing, deception and fraud. PC Jameson has worked for hours and written pages of statements and followed up all the leads and information we have supplied, and now it seems there is a strong case to lock up our son before he causes any more harm.

I employ more than 40 people and I would guess I have no more than five with PC Jameson's attitude and commitment.

C.F.,
Rochdale.

WE COULDN'T HAVE GOT THROUGH WITHOUT HIM

WE have had a lot of problems these past few months. Our son, 12, has severe mental and learning disabilities, my husband was arrested for assaulting me, my parents disowned me for trying to make another go of our marriage, and with all the stress, we turned to drugs.

We are working hard on our marriage and the purpose of writing this letter is to say how much help, support and advice we have received from PC Paul Hale. I don't think we could have got through our problems without him. He has become a good friend to us, and if I have any concerns in the future, he will be the first I talk to,

Mrs G.T.,
Billinge, Wigan.

continues to rise. I forwarded an evidential pack to Reddish Police Station in relation to an allegation of a false insurance claim. The man was arrested and questioned about the offence, which he denied and was bailed. PC Chris Shaw contacted me about this and called later to say the man had been questioned again after further evidence was obtained and had made a full admission. I would like to thank PC Shaw for the way he dealt with this matter. He demonstrated professionalism in all his dealings with me and kept me appraised. He's a credit to you.

Lewis Porter,
Head of Security & Risk
Management,
Lifestyle Services Group Ltd,
Crewe.

ON behalf of the Magistrates' Association and colleagues, may I thank members of staff for the support they gave the Association in allowing us to carry out awareness training in the custody suite at Stretford Police Station. Everyone who attended thoroughly appreciated the time given to them and valued the opportunity of observing proceedings in the suite.

Kathryn Hughes JP,
Magistrates' Association,
Inner Manchester Branch.

SUPERB

WE had a problem with a person moving two of my company vehicles with a stacker truck without my permission. In no time at all after my call, PC Alison Hardman arrived. Up to then, I'd not had much time for the police service, but PC Hardman totally changed my mind. She was superb and nothing was too much trouble for her in sorting out the problem.

Stephen Owen,
A & S Windows,
Bredbury, Stockport.

THE BEST

THANK YOU for giving us PCSO Anne-Marie Simpkin. She's the best thing to happen to us. I work alongside her and any incidents reported to me I pass on to her. She has an excellent attitude with youths, especially a group that tries to spoil things.

Mrs Christine Francis,
Home Watch Co-ordinator,
Landgate,
Wigan.

CARING

PC Matthew Spencer dealt with a complaint of harassment against an ex-partner with whom I have had difficulties over the past few years. He talked me through every step he

was taking, including cautioning my ex-partner, and he gave me the belief that the police do care for the public, no matter how small the complaint.

Miss C.M.,
Northenden.

IMPRESSED

I AND other residents have been impressed by the police response to the anti-social behaviour that has plagued the village over the last few months. It is reassuring to see uniformed officers on the streets again and to see them coming into local pubs and talking to the public. We have seen several groups of non-local people register the police presence and leave soon afterwards. Additionally, the marauding groups of troublemakers have largely disappeared. You have a good team on this project.

George Leigh,
Hale.

FIRST-CLASS RESPONSES

I REPORTED that I was unable to contact my elderly aunt by phone and received a very understanding and sympathetic response from your operator, Rachel Armstrong (Leigh OCR). Within an hour, two Longsight officers called to check on my aunt, and she told me they were very nice. We normally hear about only the things that go wrong regarding the police, and I would just like to say thank you for a prompt, professional and courteous response to my concerns.

Oliver Simcox,
Dublin.

THANK YOU to Mary Batich (Trafford OCR) for looking after me over the telephone. She was first class, a credit to GMP and the best civilian support worker I have spoken to by phone.

A.C.,
Chorlton.

PLEASED

THANKS to staff at the Dog Training Unit at Hough End. I am a puppy walker for the unit and my first puppy, Zippe, completed his training along with his new handler, PC Andy Hayfield. My son and my dad attended with me to watch and we are pleased to say Zippe passed and went operational in November. Many thanks to all at the unit, especially trainer Paul Quinlan who allowed me this fantastic opportunity.

Leanne Casey,
Rochdale.

THE RIGHT ROAD

MY gratitude to Sgts Mark Beales, Tony Allt and Roy Corlett (Road Policing) for the prompt and professional assistance they gave my officers and members of a family when they informed them of a tragic death and then facilitated travel arrangements to enable identification of the deceased. Your officers directed substantial personal time and effort to ensure maximum resources were allocated when they were experiencing a significant workload regarding local issues. The family have also expressed their thanks for the officers' assistance.

Insp Douglas Kirkham,
Road Policing Branch,
Dalkeith
Lothian & Borders Police.

GOOD SERVICE

AFTER an accident at Ashton-under-Lyne, three officers, PC Robert Lightfoot, PC Nigel Hyde and PC Myron Supyk (Road Policing), were very professional at the scene. It was great to receive such good service.

Miss E. Cassidy,
Hyde.

PATIENCE

I WENT to Altrincham Police Station for advice and assistance with evidence of one of my staff defrauding my company. PC John Carr dealt with the matter until it came to court and the individual was found guilty and sentenced. I would like to thank PC Carr for his patience and help throughout this period. I very nearly lost my business and at times I got frustrated with the procedure and investigation. PC Carr always returned my calls for updates and took a lot of time to explain how the investigation was progressing. It helped me to keep my clients and regulatory bodies informed.

A.W.,
Sale.

PROMPT

WE greatly appreciate the prompt and courteous response we received to our report of a burglary and the competence and reassurance of PC Sammy Benbrahim-Meddani. He helped us regain some normality during this unpleasant episode while dealing with official requirements and advising on security. We also received unexpected and kind assistance from Victim Support.

B.D.,
Edgeley, Stockport.

STRETFORD SUPPORT

A BIG thank-you for all the help you gave my son and his wife when they were burgled at my granddaughter's in Stretford. My daughter-in-law's passport and my son's green card were lost, but thanks to you, the last case you found contained these and other special things. Without your help, my son and his wife would have been stranded.

Shirley Fryer,
Leeds.

PROFESSIONALISM

WE have seen a steady increase in the reporting of lost and stolen mobile phones. These losses are often legitimate, but we have noticed a marked increase in false claims, especially as the value of phones

OUR ROCK

YOUR job is not an easy one, but the sensitivity and compassion of **PC Paul Saunders (Road Policing)** is second to none. Thank you for being our rock. The police force is a richer place for having you on board.

From a family of four involved in a collision.

OUTSTANDING

PC Keith Bond has made an outstanding contribution to the success of Atherton Pub Watch Scheme. Without the support of GMP and especially PC Bond, it wouldn't be as effective as it is. His commitment has been a major factor.

*Gary Pilling,
Atherton Community Safety Officer,
Wigan Council.*

QUIETER NOW

INSTEAD of complaining about damage, litter and graffiti, my neighbours have been saying how quiet things have been since **PC Mark Windram**, along with several other officers, dealt with a group of youths on the estate.

*S. K.,
Offerton, Stockport.*

AIRPORT ACCOLADES

THANKS to **PC Catherine Spencer** and **Communications Officer Thomas Stubbs** for being inordinately helpful following problems we had at Manchester Airport.

*R.G.,
Holmbrook, Cumbria.*

THANKS for the support of **PC Malcolm Cronshaw** during an embarkation exercise. A number of immigration officers commented favourably on the co-operation.

*Rob Carrington-Porter,
Chief Immigration Officer,
Regional Intelligence Unit.*

PC Patrick Mitchell and **PC Graham Tighe** were of great assistance to me and my girlfriend after we found that a road accident near Manchester Airport had made it impossible to reach our hotel, which we had booked ready for an early morning flight. They were also smart in appearance and polite, a real credit to the Force.

*M. Harper,
Belper,
Derbyshire.*

Send copies of letters or e-mails of thanks and appreciation to **Derek Hornby, Brief Office, Chester House**, making sure the recipient's full name, not just number, is included. Letters may be edited for reasons of space.



GMPA Chairman Derek Osbaldestin receives the Charter on Member Development from Beverley Hughes, Minister for Children, Young People and Families.

First in line

Charter award for GMPA

GREATER Manchester Police Authority has become the first in the country to win an award for the way it promotes the personal development of its members.

It has received the Charter on Member Development from the North Western Local Authority Employers' Association, which goes under the name of North West Employers.

The Charter is awarded to bodies that have shown outstanding commitment to furthering the abilities of members, and GMPA is the first police authority to be recognised in this way.

GMPA chairman Derek Osbaldestin said: "In order to be an effective governing body, continuous improvement is vital.

"It allows our members to monitor police performance on behalf of the people of Greater Manchester to the best of their ability."

GMPA member Sharron Hardman, who leads on member training and development, said:

"The Authority has worked hard to establish an effective programme for all members, including individual development plans and visits to police establishments."

AWARDS MARK SUCCESS OF LABOUR CONFERENCE OPERATION PROTECTOR

OPERATION Protector, GMP's planning and policing of the Labour Party Conference in Manchester in September, won praise from a wide range of people, including the Prime Minister.

Last month, that praise was reflected in the presentation of nearly 50 Branch Commander awards to officers and staff from across the Force by Ch Supt Phil Hollowood, head of Specialist Operations.

The recipients were from various divisions and departments, but all had contributed in their own way to making the largest security operation in GMP's history a success, Ch Supt Hollowood said.

The awards went to:
Ch Supt Andy Lang;
Superintendents Charlie Coxon, Simon Garvey, Alan Greene, Zoe Hamilton, Stuart Harman and John O'Hare;

Chief Inspectors Stuart Barton, John Berry, Nadeem Butt, James Dolan, John Dunstan, Karen Jameson, Pat McKelvey, Ian Lomax, Steve Nibloe, Julian Ross and Chris Ullah;

Inspectors Allan Binks, Lol Foster, Andy Holmes, Graham Peffers, Gary Rowe and Lindsay Sproson;

Sergeants Sohail Ahmed, Graham Atherton, Oliver Clarke, Phil Davies, Mike Fleming, Glyn Jones, Darren Moore and Steve Worth;

Constables Michael Bilsbury, Martin Fagan, Michael Grainger, Laura Lewis, Gerard Read, Patrick Snype, Carmen Summers and Rebecca Ward.

Police staff: Pat Allen, Colin Carey, Jim Clancy, Amanda Coleman, Brian Douglas, Melissa Gill, Stephen Griffiths and Michael Hodge.

Pictured above: Ch Supt Phil Hollowood with some of those who received awards for their part in Operation Protector. Supt Bryan Lawton, who headed the planning team and is pictured with Ch Supt Hollowood, has been nominated for a Chief Constable's commendation.

375 delegates attend first big conference

AHEAD OF THE GAME



GMAC DAY: from left, Lee Kettlewell (Home Office), Supt Barry Flitcroft and Ch Insp Chris Sykes.

By FIONA MURRAY, Community Safety Partnership Team

MORE THAN 150 police officers from 42 forces and representatives from 55 councils across Britain were among the 375 delegates who attended the first Greater Manchester Against Crime (GMAC) national conference.

ACC Ian Seabridge was one of the key speakers for the two-day event, along with Barbara Spicer, Chief Executive of Salford Council, Barry Dixon, Chief Officer of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, and Ruth Fairhurst, Assistant Chief Executive of Bury Council.

Delegates heard about the pioneering work that Greater Manchester has been doing for the past three years in developing the National Intelligence Model (NIM) into a partnership context to tackle crime, disorder and improve community safety.

The conference explored the key principles behind GMAC and how the NIM has been developing within Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other agencies.

ADOPTION

The recent Crime and Disorder Act Review, undertaken by the Home Office, recommends the adoption of the NIM into Crime and Disorder

Reduction Partnerships and has shown Greater Manchester to be ahead of the game.

The GMAC partnership includes GMP, the 10 local authorities, Fire and Rescue Service, Probation, Health Service and other agencies.

It was established in 2003 through work led by Supt Dave Flitcroft and Ch Insp Chris Sykes.

QUALITY

GMAC has developed a Partnership Business Model using quality data, an effective IT solution, skilled strategic analysts, core decision-making documents and resources including tasking and coordinating to achieve successful partnership working.

Officers from across the country working within crime and disorder have expressed confidence in the work of GMAC.

It is widely recognised that partnership working is the most effective way of reducing crime, for which Greater Manchester is leading the way.

Visit the website: www.gmac.org.uk or contact the team on 60328 at GMAC, Divisional and Partnership Support Unit, Chester House.

Greater Manchester High Sheriff's Police Trust



By Janet Wilcox

The High Sheriff's Trust welcomes applications from anyone in GMP for either their own project or one they are supporting in the course of their police work with our partners in the community. In 2006, the Trust paid out £95,000 to Greater Manchester projects. In May, the Trustees are looking to provide up to £30,000 for a single project.

The dates for this year's meetings are:

Deadline for putting in your application	
18th January	Expired
16th May	2nd May Large grant opportunity
18th July	4th July 2007
19th October	5th October 2007

Achieving a 35 per cent reduction in key crime

Sustained by the Safer Trafford Partnership, Spotlight 2 is a continuation of the community safety initiative delivered in the Partington and Carrington areas. Each residence and business in the area was visited and given detailed crime prevention advice.

The key crime reduction figures	
Criminal damage	Down by 29.7%
Burglary other	Down by 50%
Burglary dwelling	Down by 58.2%
Theft of vehicle	Down by 26.8%
Theft from vehicle	Down by 28.1%
Robbery	Down by 38.2%
Theft from person	Down by 13.8%
All key crime	Down by 35%
All crime	Down by 21%

Crucial Crew for older people – safety tips to reduce vulnerability

Helped by a £500 cheque from the Trust, Oldham Division recently ran this tried and tested multi-agency safety event, this time aimed at people aged 50 and over, with great success. The issues addressed included bogus burglary, safety in the home, local facilities, crime issues and problem solving. Young people acted as chaperons to support the older people throughout the event.

The key achievements of the day, taken from completed feedback sheets, were:

- 95% were more aware of crime involving bogus officials
- 92% were more aware of safety around the home
- 95% were more aware of local facilities

Contact me on ext 64663 if you require further information or a presentation about applying for a grant from the Trust. I will then arrange to visit you or attend your partnership meeting.

ONLY THE BEST

Manchester's Ritz Nightclub has been named as the city's Best Bar None winner in the annual competition run by GMP's City Safe Unit.

Top pub was the Bluebell Inn, Levenshulme, while Varsity on Oxford Road came first in the best bar group. The Ritz Nightclub also won best nightclub category.

AXM on Canal Street was named best LGBT venue in Manchester, and Bargain Beers, Collyhurst, was best off-licence. Best convenience store was Fresh and Frozen, Newton Heath.

The competition aims to reward licensed venues that provide good management and safe conditions for customers, discourage binge-drinking and prevent drink-related crime.

Eighty venues met the minimum standard of safety to receive accreditation, which means they can use the Manchester 'Best Bar None' logo on their advertising.

Insp Steve Greenacre said he and his colleagues were proud of the fact that the scheme that originated in Manchester had been taken up by dozens of cities now running Best Bar None competitions of their own.

For the 2006 competition, there was a 25 per cent increase in the number of venues receiving accreditation.

"That means venues are recognising the importance of Best Bar None and are working harder to implement policies and procedures to keep people safe," Steve said.

Pupils are urged to call Crimestoppers

PUPILS at five North Manchester high schools are being encouraged to report illegal activity in their neighbourhoods to Crimestoppers.

The scheme started last month after police officers spoke to year seven and eight pupils when Crimestoppers roadshows visited the schools.

PC Lindsay Collins, of Plant Hill Police Station, said: "The project forms part of the citizenship programme in local schools, encouraging pupils to help improve their communities."

Since Crimestoppers began in 19 years ago, it has received more than 800,000 calls resulting in nearly 72,000 arrests and charges.

More than £92 million worth of stolen property has been recovered and £127 million worth of drugs seized.

An average of 17 people every day are arrested and charged as a result of information given to Crimestoppers.

Every seven days, someone is charged with murder or attempted murder following calls to the Crimestoppers number, 0800 555 111.

DRINK WARNING

PC Andy Vernon, Community Beat Manager at Horwich, has come up with a T-shirt campaign to crack down on adults who buy alcohol for under-age drinkers.

Every Friday and Saturday, staff at 15 outlets in the town centre wear the T-shirts that warn buyers they could be hit with an £80 fixed penalty or a fine up to £5,000 if they land in court.

Between them, the police and Horwich Council spent £500 on 100 T-shirts after taking up Andy's suggestion.

"We have posters in off-licences, but I wanted something that would have more impact," he said.

"You can miss a poster, but you can't really miss the message if it's emblazoned on the T-shirt of the person serving you."



POLICE SUPPORT: In recognition of the support and funding they have given for police initiatives over the years, two members of Manchester City Centre Crime Prevention Panel were presented with Divisional Commander's awards at the group's annual meeting.

Supt Mark Robinson presented the certificates to Phil Yates, of Reliance Security (pictured) and Tony Moreton, of McDonald's Restaurants.

Phil arranged a sponsored Vauxhall Zafira worth £17,500 for city centre officers and has provided funding towards the last five years of Christmas operations, together with 600,000 leaflets.

Tony has arranged vouchers to a value of more than £750,000 to help various crime prevention activities in the city centre, as well as funding for leaflets.

New strides in employee assistance

By DAMIAN MORLEY Occupational Health and Welfare Manager

TO help staff deal with the pressures they face, whether related to domestic circumstances or the world of work, GMP has provided easy-access support for a number of years.

And at the start of 2007, we are able to announce improved support measures.

Not only has this the Dealing with Stress booklet been revised and updated, but a decision has been made to provide the new version to every member of staff in the coming weeks.

Counselling and advice via Right Corecare

In the past two years, 1,000 members of staff have benefited from face-to-face counselling provided by Right Corecare and funded by GMP.

The negotiated contract, which was agreed following a lengthy and detailed tendering process, makes generous provision in that as well as being referred for counselling by practitioners in the Occupational Health and Welfare Unit, GMP staff can contact Right Corecare direct, at any time, and can refer themselves for counselling without anyone in GMP knowing who they are.

Many staff who have used this service report that by going to counselling, they were able to remain at work rather than go sick.

During the tendering process three years ago, it emerged that the leading organisations in this field could also provide, for a relatively small additional cost, a 24/7 advice service.

This provision was so useful that it was included in the contract. But by comparison with their other customers, including a large Government department, other public sector organisations and many commercial organisations, GMP stands out in that the calls seeking advice rather than counselling are relatively few.

It is possible that because many GMP staff belong to active and resourceful staff associations and trade unions, they don't feel the need to go to another organisation for advice.

On the other hand, there are real concerns that this service has not been adequately publicised and understood.

In order to maximise the support provided to GMP staff, two new initiatives are under way.

Two telephone numbers

To ensure that GMP staff know what is available and how to access it, assistance will be provided via two Helplines rather than one.

By ringing **0800 111 6387**, staff can access counselling, advice and information, on the telephone or face-to-face, as they do now.

If staff ring **0800 111 6388**, they can obtain legal, financial and tax advice.

The hope is that if some problems, e.g. neighbour disputes or debt problems, are tackled promptly and appropriately, this can assist in preventing or reducing stress. Career counselling is also available, as is debt management support.

Publicity for these facilities will be provided in two ways. Firstly all staff will get a new wallet-sized card with the access details.

A second innovative development is that Right Corecare, at no extra cost to GMP, have set up a website which allows staff, either from their desk (via External Links on the Force Intranet) or by going to <http://gmp.rightcorecare.co.uk> from any computer, to access a wealth of information about stress, psychological problems and the benefits of counselling as well as more detail about the full range of services available.

The site includes informative video clips and publicity materials. We would particularly recommend staff to access the page entitled "How we can help"

Advice to Managers

From time to time, most managers will admit that it would be useful to have access to advice about the use of 'soft skills,' often when dealing with staff issues. The website provides information about the additional support services for managers (click on "Manager Support") which are provided via telephone consultation.

Partnership with HR

In some organisations, the use of an Employee Assistance Programme - which is the service that companies such as Right Corecare provide - is seen as an alternative to support from HR teams locally or at the centre or even as a replacement for e.g. welfare officers.

However, many others, including GMP, use such services to complement and enhance what they can provide.

This announcement is the next big step in bringing about a better partnership between GMP and Right Corecare, designed to benefit all GMP staff.



Museum Matters

by Curator Duncan Broady



THE MUSEUM was chosen by BBC Radio 4 to help launch the first ever Manchester Literature Festival.

It was selected as one of five 'hidden gems' in the city - unusual locations with unique stories to tell.

The writer, Amanda Dalton, from the Royal Exchange Theatre, was commissioned to write a short story set in the museum, which was recorded before a live audience in our courtroom and then broadcast on Radio 4 the following week. The story, *Her Things*, was read by TV actress Sarah Parks and centred on a fictional volunteer at the museum named Audrey and her reaction to one of the actual exhibits in our Crime Room. (See picture below).

IN what is becoming a regular event, we hosted the sixth "Lock up your Boss" charity fundraiser in aid of St. Ann's Hospice and for the first time, the Five Star Scanner Appeal also made use of the museum cells to incarcerate business leaders who then had to raise 'bail' money from donors in order to be released from custody.

The courtroom was also in use as part of a new development when psychiatrists training to be expert witnesses tried out their skills in the witness box while being cross-examined by a team of barristers.

The no-holds barred cross-examination left the doctors stunned but better prepared to face the ordeal of an actual courtroom.

The initial training session was judged such a success that further sessions are planned.

EVERY little helps....during the decommissioning of Littlemoor Police Station, a cabinet marked ARP Emergency Tools dating back to the Second World War was discovered and is now in the museum, as are two very mundane but hard-to-find items - olive drab pressed metal correspondence trays trademarked Veteran Series and probably dating from the 1950s. The latter were still in use at Littlemoor up to the station closing and will shortly find a home on the desk of our 1950s Detective Inspector's Office reconstruction.

WE have welcomed our new Museum Officer, Claire Mayle, who has joined us from from the National Trust where she worked at Lyme Hall running educational activities, visitor events and supervising the team of volunteer workers. She also has many years experience in retail.

AND finally - we noted that in the latest edition of the City Life Guide for Manchester, the entry for the museum reads: "Friendly and knowledgeable staff ... this museum is worth visiting for its sheer oddness!"



Radio 4 reading: Actress Amanda Parks and curator Duncan Broady in the museum's courtroom.

Sign of the times

by retired Insp Kevin Jamieson

I WAS writing in the Civil Service Motoring Association magazine recently about road signs when I was reminded of an incident during an advanced driving test in rural Cheshire.

In the early 70s immediately before parts of Cheshire Constabulary were amalgamated with GMP, an advanced driving school operated out of a converted convent in Crewe.

For four weeks, three students and an instructor were allowed to scream about the Cheshire countryside and into the far reaches of Wales, thrashing down the A5 to Anglesey at a then incredible 115 mph in a Ford Cortina GT and the Ford Zephyr that featured in the groundbreaking TV programme *Z Cars*.

At the end of the four-week course, there was the dreaded make-or-break test, which nobody failed. Everybody passed Grade 1, 2 or 3, but only Grade 1 students were passed for traffic patrol.

The written test mainly comprised regurgitating large passages from the Home Office Advanced Driving Manual, while the test drive itself was designed to make

the student operate in a high state of tension, though without overdosing on adrenalin and going completely berserk.

Examiners always barked

Travelling down a quiet country lane, the examiner would bang his clipboard on the dash and bark (they always barked as part of the hype) that there was a call to 'thieves on' at a particular location.

The intended location was always in the opposite direction of travel and included a stretch of road where, traffic permitting, you could go flat out. A fellow student, Arthur Downs, was

on his test run and had just finished providing a running commentary, noting margins of safety and talking coherently about the principles of corners and bends while taking them at 80mph, when the examiner, determined on maintaining the pressure, shouted: 'Name the last sign we passed.' Quick as a flash and totally unfazed, Arthur shouted back: 'Fresh eggs for sale!'

This probably was the last sign they passed, though I don't believe it was the one the examiner had in mind.

Nevertheless, Arthur came through with flying colours and spent many years in the traffic department.



RECENT RETIREMENTS (to end of November)

Ch Supt Anthony Kane.

Supts Raymond Foy and Keith Jardine.

Chief Inspectors Anthony Leonard and David Wolfe.

Inspectors Garry Allen, David Carroll, Stephen Clark, Paul Crosbie, Heather Denton, Graham Dodd, Michael Fisher, Glyn Ford, Anthony Glynn, Brian Goulding, Karen Pinder, Andrew Searle, Daniel Sheard, Ian Southwood, Michael Stanfield, Brian Taylor and Graeme Wallis.

Sergeants Ian Aspey, John Baybut, Julie Bailey, Andrew Connell, David Bolam, Ruth Brown, Philip Buckthorpe, John Dickinson, John Fitton, Alan Greenhalgh, Pamela Hadfield, Andrew Harrison, Howard

Harvey, David Johnson, Robert Johnson, Peter Kay, Adrian Ladkin, David Mayer, Robert Meek, David Pinder, Peter Roberts, Jeffrey Speak, James Toft, David Turnbull and Margaret Warren.

Constables Steven Allman, Paul Arnold, Peter Broadhurst, Susan Brown, Robert Buckley, Lynn Bialowas, Alwyn Cannon, Karen Carter, Geoffrey Charnock, Stephen Clough, Anthony Coram, Brian Cowperthwaite, James Davies, Michael Davies, John Day, Trevor Eccles, Vivien Edwards, Peter Elliott, Paul Fisher, Stephen Foulkes, Susan Hennigan, Stephen Gaskell, Paul Gerrity, David Gorton, Wade Harrel, Frank Hayes, Nigel Hodgson, Keith Hudson, Ian Hynes, Christopher Jackson, Dennis Lindo, Eric Lindsey, Glyn

Lloyd, Keith Mail, Graham Manifold, Robert Makin, Shahid Mahmood, Andrew Margeson, Patrick McCarthy, Michael Monks, Christopher Morgans, Thomas Nodwell, David O'Brien, Philip O'Brien, Steven Pearson, Alison Peberdy, Nigel Pickles, David Roberts, Stephen Robinson, David Riley, Joan Scholes, Robert Simms, Alan Southern, Peter Taylor, Aidan Traynor, Paul Urey, Anne Walmsley, Barbara Walshaw, Denis Weir, Charles Wiggins, Ian Williams and Susan Williams.

Police staff John Ball, Marlene Bates, William Bond, Thomas Clayton, Michael Finn, Dorothy Gidman, Frank O'Dwyer, William Jagger, Henryka Jeziorski, Pauline Lennox, Peter Phillips, Christopher Shute, Allan Slater, Anne Smith, Ann Stott, Jennifer Talbot, Patrick Touze, Olivia Tupman, Colin Wilkinson, Anthony Wilman, Peter Worthington and Maureen York.



HOSPICE HELP

A raffle organised by Bolton Central Area Policing Team has raised £1,467 towards building a garden of tranquility at Bolton Hospice.

The money was presented to the hospice last month and follows a donation of £525 to the fund by the team in 2005.

Pictured at the presentation are Insp Philip Unsworth (left), the hospice's Director of Fundraising, Debra Graham, and PC Robert Varley.

The target for building the garden is £100,000, of which half has been raised so far.



SKILLED: Volunteer police cadets at Wigan and Leigh were rewarded at a special ceremony last month when 21 were presented with certificates.

The group, aged 16 to 19, achieved Key Skill Awards after completing a 38-week course in which they were tested on first-aid, physical fitness and the history of

policing. They also gained practical experience working alongside officers.

Ben Donagain, 19, of Astley, won the title of Wigan Police Cadet of the Year and is pictured with Supt Shaun Currie at the presentation evening.

The Wigan cadet scheme has been running for 22 years.



NET GAIN

FOR the second year running, GMP's netball 'A' team won the Police Sport UK gold cup.

Out of 33 teams that competed in a two-day tournament hosted by Merseyside Police, they emerged once again as the best in the country.

In the final, they netted a 13-10 victory over South Yorkshire Police – the same team they defeated to win the cup last year.

Not only did the GMP players win the

final, but one of them won the Player of the Tournament award.

Salford intelligence officer Ann-Marie Kay was voted the best of 500 competitors.

In second place in the tournament was.....the GMP 'B' team.

They won silver with a two-goal victory over Lancashire and they also won the Police Sport UK plate competition, defeating Hertfordshire 32-31.

PICTURED ABOVE: The GMP netball 'A' side – back row from left, Pam Mortimer, Kate Barwick, Wendy Grace and Yvonne Cowan. Front from left, Player of the Tournament Ann-Marie Kay, Karen Ennis and Catherine Hankinson.

STAGE SQUAD
Presents
Snow White & the 7 Dwarves
A traditional family panto!
@ Hough End, Fri 9th & Sat 10th Feb 2007
For tickets 07720 537733